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URGING THE EU TO ADD HEZBOLLAH TO ITS WIDE-RANGING LIST OF TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS; AND EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES AND SYMPATHY TO THE PEOPLE OF THE KINGDOM OF SPAIN FOR THE MARCH 11, 2004 TERRORIST ATTACKS IN MADRID

MARKUP

BEFORE THE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EUROPE AND EMERGING THREATS

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ONE HUNDRED NINTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

ON

H. Res. 101 and H. Res. 99

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URGING THE EU TO ADD HEZBOLLAH TO ITS WIDE-RANGING LIST OF TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS; AND EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES AND SYMPATHY TO THE PEOPLE OF THE KINGDOM OF SPAIN FOR THE MARCH 11, 2004 TERRORIST ATTACKS IN MADRID

TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2005

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON EUROPE AND EMERGING THREATS,
COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS,
Washington, DC.

The Subcommittee met, pursuant to call, at 5:05 p.m., in room 2172, Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Elton Gallegly (Chairman of the Subcommittee) presiding.

Mr. GALLEGLY. I call the Subcommittee to order. Pursuant to notice, I call up H. Res. 101 for purposes of markup and move its recommendation to the Full Committee. Without objection, the resolution will be considered as read and open for amendment at any point.

[H. Res. 101 follows:]

IV

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 101

Urging the European Union to add Hezbollah to the European Union's wide-ranging list of terrorist organizations.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 15, 2005

Mr. SAXTON (for himself, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. CANTOR, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. ACKERMAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

---

RESOLUTION

Urging the European Union to add Hezbollah to the European Union's wide-ranging list of terrorist organizations.

Whereas Hezbollah is a Lebanon-based radical organization with terrorist cells based in Europe, Africa, North America, South America, Asia, and elsewhere, receiving financial, training, weapons, and political and organizational aid from Iran and Syria;

Whereas Hezbollah has led a 23-year global campaign of terror targeting American, German, French, British, Italian, Israeli, Kuwaiti, Saudi Arabian, Argentinean, Thai, Singaporean, and Russian civilians, among others;

Whereas former Director of Central Intelligence George Tenet called Hezbollah ''an organization with the capa-

bility and worldwide presence [equal to] al Queda, equal if not far more [of a] capable organization . . . [t]hey're a notch above in many respects . . . which puts them in a state sponsored category with a potential for lethality that's quite great'';

Whereas Hezbollah has been suspected of numerous terrorist acts against Americans, including the suicide truck bombing of the United States Embassy and Marine Barracks in Beirut in October 1983 and the Embassy annex in Beirut in September 1984;

Whereas the French unit of the Multinational Force in Beirut was also targeted in the October 1983 attack, in which 241 United States soldiers and 58 French paratroopers were killed;

Whereas Hezbollah has attacked Israeli and Jewish targets in South America in the mid-1990s, including the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in March 1992 and the AMIA Jewish Cultural Center in Buenos Aires in July 1994;

Whereas Hezbollah has claimed responsibility for kidnappings of United States and Israeli civilians and French, British, German, and Russian diplomats, among others;

Whereas even after the adherence of Israel to United Nations Security Council Resolution 425 (1978) by withdrawing from Lebanon, Hezbollah has continued to carry out attacks against Israel and its citizens;

Whereas Hezbollah has expanded its operations in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, providing training, financing and weapons to Palestinian terrorist organizations on the European Union terrorist list, including the Al Aqsa Mar-

tyrs Brigade, Hamas, the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine;

Whereas in 2004 Hezbollah instigated, financed, or played a role in implementing nearly 80 percent of Palestinian terrorist attacks against Israeli targets, resulting in over 20 percent of Israeli casualties in terrorist attacks for that year;

Whereas the European Union agreed by consensus to classify Hamas, another Palestinian terrorist organization, as a terrorist organization for purposes of prohibiting funding from the European Union to Hamas;

Whereas the Syria Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Restoration Act of 2003 (Public Law 108–175) urges the Government of Lebanon to assert the sovereignty of the Lebanese state over all of its territory and to evict all terrorist and foreign forces from southern Lebanon, including Hezbollah and the Iranian Revolutionary Guards;

Whereas, although the European Union has included Imad Fayiz Mughniyah, a key operations and intelligence officer of Hezbollah, on its terrorist list, it has not included his organization on the list;

Whereas the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, and Australia have all classified Hezbollah as a terrorist organization and the United Kingdom has placed the Hezbollah External Security Organization on its terrorist list;

Whereas leaders of Hezbollah have made statements denouncing any distinction between its ''political and military'' operations, such as Hezbollah's representative in the Lebanese Parliament, Mohammad Raad, who stated in 2001 that ''Hezbollah is a military resistance party, and it is

our task to fight the occupation of our land. . . . There is no separation between politics and resistance.'';

Whereas in a book recently published by the deputy secretary-general of Hezbollah, Sheikh Naim Qassem, entitled ''Hezbollah -- the Approach, the Experience, the Future'', Qassem writes ''Hezbollah is a jihad organization whose aim, first and foremost, is jihad against the Zionist enemy, while the political, pure and sensible effort can serve as a prop and a means of support for jihad'';

Whereas United Nations Security Council resolution 1559 (2004), jointly sponsored by the United States and France, calls upon all remaining foreign forces to withdraw from Lebanon and for the disbanding and disarmament of all Lebanese and non-Lebanese militias, among other things;

Whereas in December 2004 the Department of State placed Al-Manar, Hezbollah's satellite television network, on the Terrorist Exclusion List, and in December 2004 the French Council of State banned the broadcasting of Al-Manar in France

Whereas France, Germany, and Great Britain, with the support of the High Representative of the European Union, have created a working group with Iran to discuss regional security concerns, including the influence of terror stemming from Hezbollah and other extremist organizations; and

Whereas cooperation between the United States and the European Union regarding combating international terrorism is essential to the promotion of global security and peace: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved,* That the House of Representatives—

(1) urges the European Union to classify Hezbollah as a terrorist organization for purposes of prohibiting funding from the European Union to Hezbollah and recognizing it as a threat to international security;

(2) condemns the continuous terrorist attacks perpetrated by Hezbollah; and

(3) condemns Hezbollah's continuous support of Palestinian terrorist organizations on the European Union terrorist list, such as the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, Hamas, the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

○

Mr. GALLEGLY. If there are any opening statements, we can submit them into the record. I have an opening statement, but I will simply make it a part of the record in view of the commitments that Members have.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Gallegly follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE ELTON GALLEGLY, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, AND CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON EUROPE AND EMERGING THREATS

H. RES. 101

Today, the Subcommittee on Europe and Emerging Threats is marking up two resolutions. The first item on the agenda is H. Res. 101, a resolution which urges the European Union to add Hezbollah to its terrorist list. I strongly support this measure and I would like to commend Rep. Jim Saxton, for introducing H.Res. 101, and the ranking member of this Subcommittee, Representative Wexler, for his hard work on this issue and ensuring that we had enough cosponsors to bring this resolution up for consideration.

As I believe everyone in this room knows, Hezbollah is a Lebanon-based extremist organization that has a network of cells located throughout the world. Its primary sources of political, financial and organizational support stem from Iran and Syria. According to the most recent State Department "Patterns of Global Terrorism Report," Hezbollah is dedicated to the elimination of Israel and the establishment of an Islamic theocracy in Lebanon. Hezbollah is also a strong supporter of the Syrian presence in that country—a position clearly at odds with both the desires of the international community and the Lebanese people.

Hezbollah has been known or suspected to have been involved in numerous terrorist attacks against Americans, including the suicide truck bombing of the United States Embassy and Marine Barracks in Beirut in 1983 and the Embassy annex in Beirut in 1984. Three members of Hezbollah are on the FBI's list of the 22 most wanted persons for the hijacking of a TWA flight in which an American Navy diver was killed. Elements of the terrorist organization have also been involved in the kidnapping of Americans and other Westerners.

In past years, Hezbollah has increasingly supported groups that have already been designated by the EU as terrorist organizations. It defies logic that the EU would classify these other groups as terrorist organizations and not include Hezbollah, a group that is among the most lethal terrorist organizations in the world.

Following a statement by Congressman Wexler, I will be offering an amendment, which is based on comments I received from the Department of State, as well as some changes requested by Mr. Wexler.

However, at this time, I would like to turn to Congressman Wexler for a statement.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Wexler follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE ROBERT WEXLER, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF FLORIDA

H. RES. 101: URGING THE EU TO ADD HEZBOLLAH TO ITS TERRORIST LIST

Mr. Chairman,

I want to thank you for your support of this resolution, urging the EU to add Hezbollah to its terrorist list. For 23 years, Hezbollah has led a global campaign of terror aided by Syria and Iran that has targeted American, Israeli, European, South American, Asian and Arab citizens alike. Dubbed the "A-team of terror" by former Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage, the global security threat posed by Hezbollah nears—if not surpasses—that of Al Qaeda.

Since its inception in 1982, Hezbollah has carried out the bombings of the American Embassy in Lebanon, the Israeli Embassy in Argentina and the US and French Marine bases in Beirut, among others. Hezbollah still has a formidable presence in Lebanon, as demonstrated by today's rally organized by Hezbollah in Beirut, where nearly half a million people gathered to express their support for Syria, while chanting "death to America; death to Israel" and waving pictures of Syrian President Bashar Assad. This position openly defies international demands, as well as that of an American and French-initiated UN Security Council Resolution, which calls for a Syrian withdrawal from Lebanon and the disarmament of Hezbollah.

In past years, Hezbollah has increasingly supported groups designated by the EU as terrorist organizations, including the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, Hamas, the Palestinian Islamic Jihad and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. Moreover, EU Member States such as France and Germany have taken recent legal action against Hezbollah, including the German deportation of a Hezbollah agent and the French banning of Hezbollah television, Al Manar. The EU has also included several officials affiliated with Hezbollah on its terrorist list, thereby precluding the transfer of funds to these individuals from EU Member States. It defies logic that the EU would take such action and, at the same time, omit Hezbollah from its terrorist list.

In fact, an EU representative recently affirmed that Palestinian officials are increasingly concerned about the enhanced presence of Hezbollah in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Palestinians fear that Hezbollah will undermine a negotiated ceasefire and target Abu Mazen, who has faced severe criticism from Hezbollah, in addition to assassination threats. A Palestinian official recently cited an intercepted email and bank transaction indicating that Hezbollah has increased its payments to Palestinian terrorists from $20,000 to $100,000 per attack.

In past years, EU Member states have sought to distinguish between the political and military wings of Hezbollah. However, Hezbollah officials themselves do not believe this distinction can be made—proving the futility of such claims. This was reiterated by Mohammad Raad, one of Hezbollah's representatives in the Lebanese Parliament, who stated that "Hezbollah is a military resistance party, and it is our task to fight the occupation of our land . . . There is no separation between politics and resistance."

Hezbollah does not discriminate in its targeting of innocent civilians, and the EU should not discriminate in its classification of terror. As such, the European Union must join the ranks of America, Canada, Israel and Australia in imposing a financial block on Hezbollah and adding them to its terrorist list. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Issa follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE DARRELL ISSA, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

H. RES. 101

Mr. Chairman, thank you for convening this markup today on H Res. 101. I would also like to thank Chairman Royce for his leadership in marking up this important piece of legislation last week. Finally I would like to thank Rep. Jim Saxton, Rep. Robert Wexler and Rep. Eliot Engel

As the Lebanese people move in the direction of freedom and democracy, Hezbollah, with the backing of the Syrian government continues to be a cancer upon the state of Lebanon and a destabilizing force in the region.

Hezbollah is a terrorist organization and their refusal to disarm should be a major concern to Europe and Lebanon.

Hezbollah has committed crimes against both the United States and Europe. Their involvement in the 1983 suicide bombing in Beirut that killed 241 American Marines is widely known and well documented; as are their ties to the Iranian government.

In the months after September 11th I traveled to both Syria and Lebanon called both countries to renounce violence and disarm Hezbollah.

The leadership of Hezbollah has refused to accept the fact that peace in the region will only come through cooperation, not confrontation, with its neighbors.

In October of 2001 the U.S. State Department took the prudent step of adding Hezbollah to its terrorist list. It is now time for the European Union to follow suit.

The EU has been a great ally to the United States in the War on Terror. They must not overlook this dangerous organization that continues to work to undermine safety and security in the Middle East.

Thank you Mr. Chairman

Mr. GALLEGLY. I have an amendment at the desk. Will the clerk please designate?

Ms. HALLOCK. An amendment to H. Res. 101 offered by Mr. Gallegly of California.

[The amendment referred to follows:]

AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 101

OFFERED BY MR. GALLEGLY OF CALIFORNIA

In the 8th clause of the preamble, strike ''the adherence of Israel to'' and insert ''Israel's compliance with''.

In the 10th clause of the preamble—

(1) strike ''nearly 80 percent'' and insert ''a significant number''; and

(2) strike ''resulting in'' and all that follows through ''for that year''.

In the 11th clause of the preamble, strike '', another Palestinian terrorist organization,''.

In the 14th clause of the preamble, strike ''the United Kingdom,''.

In the 17th clause of the preamble, strike ''among other things''.

In the 19th clause of the preamble, strike ''stemming from'' and insert ''perpetuated by''.

In the 20th clause of the preamble, strike ''combating'' and insert ''efforts to combat''.

Mr. GALLEGLY. Without objection, the amendment is considered as read.

The amendment I am offering is based on comments I received on the resolution from the State Department and some changes communicated to me by my friend, Congressman Robert Wexler. The amendment is designed to clarify some of the language contained in H. Res. 101. However, the amendment does not change the substance of the legislation or the message it is trying to convey, and I urge its passage.

Anyone seek to be recognized on the amendment? If not, the question occurs on the amendment. All in favor, say aye. Opposed? The amendment is agreed to.

The question occurs on the motion to report H. Res. 101 favorably, as amended. All in favor, say aye. Opposed? The motion is approved, and the resolution is reported favorably.

The staff is directed to make any technical and conforming amendments.

Pursuant to notice, I call up H. Res. 99 for purposes of markup and move its recommendation to the Full Committee. Without objection, the resolution will be considered as read and open for amendment at any point.

[H. Res. 99 follows:]

IV

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 99

Expressing the condolences of the House of Representatives to the families of the victims of the terrorist attacks in Madrid that occurred one year ago, on March 11, 2004, and expressing deepest sympathy to the individuals injured in those attacks and to the people of the Kingdom of Spain.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 15, 2005

Mr. MCCOTTER (for himself and Ms. BERKLEY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

---

RESOLUTION

Expressing the condolences of the House of Representatives to the families of the victims of the terrorist attacks in Madrid that occurred one year ago, on March 11, 2004, and expressing deepest sympathy to the individuals injured in those attacks and to the people of the Kingdom of Spain.

Whereas on March 11, 2004, 10 coordinated bomb explosions at the Atocha, Santa Eugenia, and El Pozo del Tio Raimundo stations and aboard a commuter train occurred during the morning rush hour in Madrid;

Whereas 191 individuals were killed and more than 1,800 individuals were wounded in these horrific terrorist attacks;

Whereas these terrorist bombing attacks were the deadliest in Europe since the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 in 1988;

Whereas these attacks constitute the worst acts of terrorism ever experienced in Spanish history;

Whereas Spain's investigation into the Basque Fatherland and Liberty terrorist organization, also known as Euzkadi Ta Askatasuma (ETA), has made progress in the Global War on Terrorism;

Whereas the leaders of Spain have worked vigorously to identify and capture terrorists who attempt to find sanctuary in Spain;

Whereas the atrocious acts of violence committed on March 11, 2004, in Madrid show yet again that terrorism knows no borders;

Whereas the United States and Spain are committed to continuing to strengthen the relationship between the United States and Europe;

Whereas Spain is an advocate for the ideals of freedom and democracy; and

Whereas the people of the United States stand together with the people of Spain to remember those individuals who lost their lives on the one year anniversary of these horrific terrorist attacks: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) expresses its condolences to the families of the individuals killed in the terrorist bombing attacks in Madrid that occurred on March 11, 2004, and expresses its deepest sympathy to the individ-

uals injured in such attacks and to the people of the Kingdom of Spain on the one year anniversary of the attacks;

(2) condemns the terrorist attacks that occurred on March 11, 2004, and all acts of terror worldwide; and

(3) expresses its solidarity with Spain and all other countries that have been attacked during the Global War on Terrorism.

○

[The prepared statement of Mr. Gallegly follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE ELTON GALLEGLY, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, AND CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON EUROPE AND EMERGING THREATS

H. RES. 99

I would like express my strong support for H.Res. 99 and thank Mr. McCotter for introducing this legislation and his work on this issue.

This resolution sends an important message of to the Spanish people that members of Congress and the American people have not forgotten the tragic terrorist attack of March 11, 2004. This attack, which was the work of an al Qaeda affiliated terrorist group, was the most deadly terrorist attack ever on Spanish soil and the worst terrorist attack in Europe since the bombing of Pan Am 103 in 1988.

It is my understanding that Congressman McCotter along with Congresswoman Berkley will be traveling to Spain on Thursday to participate in events in remembrance of the March 11, 2004 terrorist attack. I commend both members for making this trip and for representing the goodwill of the entire House of Representatives before the Spanish people.

Again, thank you for your hard work on this issue and I strongly urge the passage of this resolution.

Mr. GALLEGLY. At this point, I do recognize the gentleman from Michigan, Mr. McCotter, the author of the bill.

Mr. MCCOTTER. Mr. Chairman, at this point, because I have an amendment, I will forego an opening statement, except I would be remiss if I did not thank you very much for bringing this to the Subcommittee.

Mr. GALLEGLY. The gentleman at this point is recognized for the purposes of offering his amendment.

Mr. MCCOTTER. Yes. I have an amendment at the desk, and I ask unanimous consent that it be considered as read.

Mr. GALLEGLY. The clerk will designate the amendment. Without objection, it will be considered as read.

Ms. HALLOCK. An amendment to H. Res. 99 offered by Mr. McCotter of Michigan.

[The amendment referred to follows:]

AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 99

OFFERED BY MR. MCCOTTER

Amend the 1st clause of the preamble to read as follows:

Whereas on March 11, 2004, terrorists affiliated with Al Qaeda coordinated 10 bomb explosions at the Atocha, Santa Eugenia, and El Pozo del Tio Raimundo stations and aboard a commuter train during the morning rush hour in Madrid;

After the 6th clause of the preamble, insert the following:

Whereas the Club de Madrid, an independent organization of democratic former heads of state and government dedicated to strengthening democracy around the world, is convening an international summit on democracy, terrorism, and security under the High Patronage of His Majesty the King of Spain to commemorate the one year anniversary of the terrorist attacks in Madrid;

Mr. GALLEGLY. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes to speak on his amendment.

Mr. MCCOTTER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Succinctly, there are two changes the amendment will do to the underlying resolution. The first is it will make sure that it magnifies the fact that the March 11th attacks were perpetrated by al-Qaeda, not by ETA, which is referenced later in the resolution. Secondly, it also adds a paragraph recognizing the Club de Madrid, which is hosting an international summit on democracy, terrorism, and security under the High Patronage of His Majesty, the King of Spain.

Mr. GALLEGLY. I support Mr. McCotter's amendment, which I believe improves the underlying legislation.

Is there any other Member on either side that has a comment to make relative to the amendment? Hearing no requests, at this point the question occurs on the amendment. All in favor, say aye. Opposed? The ayes have it, and the amendment is passed.

The question occurs on the motion to report H. Res. 99 favorably, as amended. All in favor, say aye. Any opposed? The motion is carried, and the resolution will be reported favorably.

Staff is directed to make any technical and conforming amendments.

With that, the Committee stands adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 5:12 p.m., the Subcommittee was adjourned.]